



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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SHRIMP FISHERY RE-OPENED OFF TEXAS

Federal waters from 9 to 200 nautical miles off Texas will be open to shrimping 30 minutes after sunset on July 5, 2000, announced Dr. William T. Hogarth, Regional Administrator, Southeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Federal opening will correspond to the time that Texas opens its waters to shrimp trawling.

The shrimp fishery is closed annually off Texas to allow brown shrimp to reach a larger and more valuable size prior to harvest, and to prevent waste of brown shrimp that would otherwise be discarded due to their small size.

Current regulations establish a Federal closure from May 15 to July 15, each year, but provide an allowance for annual adjustments by the Regional Administrator. Based on a biological sampling program conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas opens state waters and NMFS opens Federal waters to shrimp trawling when the mean size of shrimp leaving the estuaries is 112 mm total length, during a period of maximum duration ebb tides.

NMFS is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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